

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ADDIS 04454 211402Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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P R 211333Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4946
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

S E C R E T ADDIS ABABA 4454

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MOPS, MASS, SO, ET, US
SUBJ: ALLEGATION THAT USG IS SUPPORTING SOMALI INFILTRATORS

1. ETHIOPIAN PRESS MORNING JULY 21 IS CARRYING MAJOR STORY THAT (ETHIOPIAN HERALD) "THOUSANDS OF INFILTRATING SOMALI SOLDIERS HAVE BEEN WIPED OUT AND HUNDREDS OF OTHERS CAPTURED ALONG WITH TRANSPORT VEHICLES AND ULTRA-MODERN MILITARY WEAPONS" IN NUMBER OF OGADEN LOCATIONS. ARTICLE QUOTES DISPATCH BY TEAM OF JOURNALISTS (UNIDENTIFIED) SENT TO EASTERN ETHIOPIA TO "COVER THE AGGRESSION BEING COMMITTED BY SOMALIA".

2. TOWARD END OF ARTICLE, FOLLOWING PASSAGE OCCURS: "OF THE MODERN AMMUNITIONS CAPTURED PARTICULARLY IN KEBRI DEHAR ARE TO BE FOUND LATEST AND MOST UP-TO-DAY AMERICAN AUTO-MATIC GUNS KNOWN AS THE M-16. THE REPORT (JOURNALISTS' DISPATCH) SAYS THIS HAS BEEN FOUND IN PLENTY AND THAT THIS FACT CLEARLY SHOWS THAT AMERICAN IMPERIALISM ON THE BASIS OF ITS SECRET DEAL WITH THE REACTIONARY MOGADISHO REGIME HAS BEGUN TO INDIRECTLY ARM SOMALIA TO VIOLATE THE
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TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF ETHIOPIA AND TO REVERSE THE COURSE OF THE POPULAR REVOLUTION." SAME PASSAGE IS EXTRACTED AND REPEATED IN SHORT ARTICLE ELSEWHERE IN ETHIOPIAN HERALD ACCOMPANYING SERIES OF PHOTOS OF ARMS AND AMMO ALLEGEDLY CAPTURED BY EPMG TROOPS IN OGADEN.

3. ACCUSATION WILL NO DOUBT BE REPEATED AND EMBELLISHED

AS TIME GOES ON NO MATTER WHAT WE SAY AS IN CASE OF CIA
ALLEGATIONS. INSTINCTIVELY I WOULD LIKE TO DENY IT TO
EPMG, SINCE ALLEGATION AT THIS POINT IS OF COURSE NOT
TRUE, BUT I FEAR THAT ONCE OUR DECISION PROVIDE MILITARY
ASSISTANCE IN PRINCIPLE TO SOMALIA BECOMES KNOWN TO ETHIOPIANS OR
EVEN NEWS THAT WE ARE CONSIDERING SUCH A POSSIBILITY PER
PRESS GUIDANCE FURNISHED IN STATE 168828, ANY DENIAL
WILL COME BACK TO HAUNT US AND MAY EVEN MAKE MATTERS
WORSE. NONETHELESS, IF DEPT WISHES ME TO SAY SOMETHING
AND CAN THINK OF SOME LANGUAGE THAT WILL NOT CAUSE MORE
TROUBLE THAN IT IS WORTH LATER ON, I WILL BE GLAD TO
TRY. I WOULD, OF COURSE, WANT TO DO IT ON INSTRUCTIONS.
MEANWHILE, EMBASSY IS DENYING ETHIOPIAN PRESS ALLEGATION
PRIVATELY TO FOREIGN DIPLOMATIC INQUIRERS.
TIENKEN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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